Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BONN 12178 242203Z

62

ACTION EUR-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 PM-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 ACDA-10 NEA-06 AEC-05

SCI-03 L-02 SAJ-01 RSR-01 /078 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

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INFO SECDEF WASHDC

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USNMR SHAPE

CONFIDENTIAL BONN 12178

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, GW

SUBJECT: FRG VIEWS ON UK-FRENCH NUCLEAR COOPERATION

ON THE OCCASION OF A VISIT BY REPRESENTATIVE G. WILLIAM WHITEHURST ON AUGUST 22, DEFENSE MINISTRY PLANNING CHIEF WIECK MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS ON ANGLO-FRENCH NUCLEAR COOPERATION. HE SAID THAT DESPITE RECURRING PRESS REPORTS ON THE SUBJECT, THE MATTER IS NOT REGARDED BY GERMAN OFFICIALS AS A CURRENT PROBLEM, GIVEN THE RELATIVE CERTAINTY, IN THE FRG'S OPINION, THAT ANY UK-FRENCH JOINT PROGRAM IS STILL FAR OFF IN THE FUTURE. THE FRG DOES NOT BELIEVE ANGLO-FRENCH NUCLEAR COOPERATION IN MILITARY MATTERS IS NECESSARILY ANTITHETICAL TO GERMAN INTERESTS, BUT NEVERTHELESS SEES NO ADVANTAGE OR REASON FOR PURSUIT OF SUCH A POLICY OR PROGRAM. THE SMALL SIZE OF THE UK AND FRENCH NUCLEAR ARSENALS DOES NOT ADD MUCH TO WESTERN SECURITY, BUT THE FRG CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BONN 12178 242203Z

WOULD BE MUCH CONCERNED IF UK-FRENCH NUCLEAR COLLABORATION WOULD

SHOW SIGNS OF TAKING PLACE OUTSIDE THE NATO FRAMEWORK. UK-FRENCH PROGRAMS SHOULD BE FULLY INTEGRATED INTO THE NATO COMMAND FOR MAXIMUM EFFECTIVENESS. WIECK POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT, GENERALLY SPEAKING, THE FRG TENDS TO BE SOMEWHAT UNEASY WITH THE QUESTION BECAUSE IT SUGGESTS A CHANGE IN THE STATUS QUO IN NUCLEAR MATTERS. THE FRG ATTACHES THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO THE US NUCLEAR DETERRENT AND DOES NOT REALLY WELCOME ANY RE-OPENING OF DISCUSSION OR DEBATE ABOUT SUCH FUNDAMENTAL ISSUES AS NATO NUCLEAR DOCTRINE, WHICH, IN THE FRG VIEW, THE DEVELOPMENT OF A UK-FRENCH NUCLEAR FORCE WOULD ENTAIL. THE FRG DOES NOT BELIEVE THERE ARE ANY PROSPECTS FOR INTEGRATION OF FRENCH NUCLEAR WEAPONS INTO NATO AND UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, UK-FRENCH COOPERATION COULD HAVE A FRAGMENTING EFFECT ON THE NATO STRATEGIC DETERRENT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: n/a Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 24 AUG 1973 Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004 Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004

Disposition Date: 28 MA Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a Disposition Reason: Disposition Remarks:

Document Number: 1973BONN12178 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a

Executive Order: GS CASH

Errors: N/A Film Number: n/a From: BONN

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730818/aaaaamxs.tel Line Count: 76

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL

Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: garlanwa

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 14 SEP 2001 **Review Event:**

Review Exemptions: n/a

Review History: WITHDRAWN <06-Aug-2001 by izenbei0, RDFRD, REFER TO DOE>; RELEASED <14-Sep-2001 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <17-

Sep-2001 by garlanwa> Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: FRG VIEWS ON UK-FRENCH NUCLEAR COOPERATION ON THE OCCASION OF A VISIT BY REPRESENTATIVE G. WILLIAM

WHITEHURST

TAGS: PFOR, GE, NATO

To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005